

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 8-17) are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332.5300

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No.: 30,300  
DPM/NJP

*See P# 231*